

HENRY ALLAN GLEASON

1882 — 1975

It is with deep regret that the Editors announce to the readers of this journal the death, in his ninety-third year, of its highly respected co-founder, Dr. Henry Allan Gleason, who served as one of its two co-editors from December 1933 to May 1951, skillfully guiding it through its initial struggles.

In a period of time when three or more years often elapsed between the submission of a paper by an author and its final publication in one of the standard botanical journals of the day, it was Dr. Gleason who first conceived the idea of a botanical journal printed by the much more speedy offset process with the typescripts all prepared for photographing entirely by the individual authors who would be responsible for the final appearance of the paper. Since its inception in December 1933 PHYTOLOGIA has published thirty-one volumes, comprising in all 15,872 pages, with 1392 papers by 229 different authors — certainly attesting to the intrinsic value, practicality, and popularity of his original concept.

Dr. Gleason has had a most distinguished career in the scientific field. He traveled widely and attended all of the national and international botanical conventions and congresses. He was Curator of South American Botany at the New York Botanical Garden for many years and then served there as Head Curator, Assistant Director, and even, for a short period, as Acting Director. It was his enthusiasm and energy which gave to the New York Botanical Garden its initial supremacy among North American institutions in the investigation and elucidation of the flora of the South American continent. It was primarily his efforts which resulted in the establishment of its present magnificent herbarium collection from that important area of the world. He himself collected extensively in what was then British Guiana and prepared a Flora of that country which was never published. He was also an eminent ecologist long before the days of the present popularity of that science. A member of many scientific organizations, not only in the United States, but also in many foreign lands, he was the recipient of many well-deserved honors. He was a prolific, very careful, and exact botanical investigator and author.

The Editors have lost a valued counselor and friend. He will be deeply missed by his countless friends all over the world and by the scientific community in general. Botany and ecology have suffered a great loss in his passing. We extend our deepest sympathy to his bereaved family and relatives. — The Editors.